

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9740

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9740

Related CR Release Date: July 29, 2016

Effective Date: January 1, 2017

Related CR Transmittal #: R1687OTN

Implementation Date: January 3, 2017

Common Working File to Locate Medicare Beneficiary Record and Provide Responses to Provider Queries

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice MACs and Durable Medical Equipment MACs (DME MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 9740 informs MACs about the changes to the Medicare's Common Working File ((CWF)) to add an auto-search capability to CWF provider queries and eliminate the need for providers to query multiple CWF hosts for Medicare beneficiary eligibility information. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes, which reduce burden on providers.

Background

Medicare beneficiaries are assigned a primary host at CWF based on their primary address. At the time of querying CWF for eligibility information using CWF provider queries, ELGA, HIQA, ELGH, HIQH, and HUQA, providers may not know the CWF primary host of the Medicare beneficiary. When the CWF primary host of the Medicare beneficiary is not known, Providers must query multiple CWF hosts (up to 9) until they find the host that has the Medicare beneficiary record and get the eligibility information. As the CWF hosts are connected to each other, it is possible for CWF to automatically locate the primary host where the Medicare beneficiary record exists. This will eliminate the need for providers to

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2015 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

search and locate the Medicare beneficiary record and may also reduce the number of provider queries received.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9740, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1687OTN.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2015 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.